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10/798,437	03/12/2004	Hiroyuki Tanaka	250370US2	5272

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EXAMINER

SARPONG, AKWASI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2625

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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12/13/2010

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/798,437	Applicant(s) TANAKA ET AL.	
	Examiner AKWASI M. SARPONG	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-28 and 43-57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-28 and 43-57 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/27/2004, 11/12/2004, 11/21/2005, 01/17/2006,</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <u>05/31/2006, 11/24/2008, 08/12/2009, 05/26/2010, 05/26/2010 and 11/13/2006.</u> | |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-28 and 43-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikegami (6745334).

Claim 1, Ikegami discloses an image forming apparatus that can include a plurality of applications, **(Fig. 1 shows an image forming apparatus that includes scanning, printing and faxing applications)** the image forming apparatus comprising:

a displaying part **(Fig. 6 shows clearly a display)** displaying a screen used for selecting an application on an operation display part of the image forming apparatus **(Col. 7, Lines 45-50, Fig. 6 172 shows clearly that different applications like copying, faxing, printing can be selected by pressing the appropriate key or button)**

wherein the screen shows applications **(Buttons 601,604,607, 610,634,613 shown in Fig. 6 clearly shows their corresponding applications)** and an assignment status of each application indicating whether a function key is already assigned **(Fig. 6 shows clearly that buttons 601, 604 etc shows that 601 has already been assigned**

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the function Copy A and 604 is assigned Copy B and therefore the assignment status is that the keys are assigned these applications)

an assigning part **(Keys displayed in fig. 7-see Col. 8 lines 31-34)** configured to assign a selected application that is selected on the screen to a function key when the function key is pushed, **(Col. 8 lines 34-41- thus the function key 624 is set to the application mode of double-sided operation)** such that the selected application is executed when the function key is later pushed after assigning of the selected application has occurred. **(Col. 8 lines 41-45- thus after the key is set pressing that key displays the functions that is set or assigned to it).**

and a control part **(CPU 171)** configured to launch the application assigned to the function key when the function key is pushed, **(Col. 4 lines 45-47, thus when a button such as key 624 is pressed by a user CPU 171 controls the digital copier 100 to display the settings that is set to the pressed button such as key 624)**

wherein, if a plurality of applications are assigned to the function key, when the function key is pushed, the control part displays a selection screen on the operation panel for the user to select one for selecting an application from among the plurality of applications assigned to the function key and launches an application selected on the selection screen, **(Col. 8 lines 34-39 because key 624 is assigned a plurality of modes such as "Single-double mode" , "a double-double mode" and "a double-Single mode" they are displayed on the screen as clearly shown in Fig. 8B when Key 624 is pressed –Please see NB)** and

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NB_ Understand that the way a mode is set to a button or key is by it being displayed on the screen and the user touching it- Please see Col. 8 lines 18-23.

Ikegami does not clearly disclose a scenario wherein if a single application is assigned to the function key, the control part launches the single application without displaying the selection screen when the function key is pushed.

However, if Key 624 is assigned 3 different types of double sided mode and they are displayed when it is touched then Obviously when Key 624 was assigned just a single function or mode then it will display whatever mode or function is assigned.

Furthermore, It is obvious that a key displays the number of modes or functions that are assigned to it, therefore it will be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art to understand that if 3 different modes or examples of double-sided modes which is assigned to Key 624 is displayed when it is pressed then if one mode or function is assigned to any other key then that function will be displayed when it is pressed.

Claim 2, Ikegami discloses an image forming apparatus wherein the function key is a hardware key. **(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 show a control panel which is a hardware key)**

Claim 3, Ikegami discloses wherein the function key is a software key that is displayed on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus. **(Ikegami: Col.**

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4 Lines 45-51, thus the software are embedded in the CPU 171 which controls or process the control panel)

Claim 4, Ikegami discloses wherein assigning by the assigning part is performed when the image forming apparatus is in a mode for assigning the selected application to the function key **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 25-65, thus the application key mode puts the apparatus into the mode for assigning the selected application) .**

Claim 5, Ikegami discloses wherein when assigning of the selected application is performed the image forming apparatus displays a guidance screen **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 El. 617, Guidance key)** indicating an operation of the function key on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus is copy application is selected it shows on the screen that copies is being made)**

Claim 6, Ikegami discloses wherein the guidance screen includes an image of an operation panel of the image forming apparatus **(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 45-55, thus the Operation or control panel helps in guiding the user through using the image forming apparatus)** and an image for guiding a user to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus the guidance key may be use to help the user in operating the apparatus)**

Claim 7, Ikegami discloses wherein, when assigning of the selected application is performed, the image forming apparatus displays a screen indicating the number of applications assigning to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 45-60, Fig. 6 thus fig. 6 shows clearly that copying application is pressed and therefore it shows vividly on the panel or LCD that it is the application being operated).**

Claim 8,- (Cancelled)

Claim 9, Ikegami discloses the assigning part **(Inoue: Fig. 5 show a display for assigning functions)** including:

a part obtaining a function key ID corresponding to the pushed function key **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 33-45, thus when a copy button is pressed, CPU 171 communicates with 172)** and

a part storing an application ID of the selected application **(Ikegami: Memory storing the application addresses in Fig. 2 EI. 174 and 175)** and the obtained function key ID in which the application ID is associated with the function key ID. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, Fig. 2 thus there is a linkage between the key and the software that supports the function key which operates through the Processor as a communication means)**

Claim 10, Ikegami discloses wherein, in addition to the function key ID, the image forming apparatus stores extension key IDs for identifying a plurality of

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applications assigned to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171)**

Claim 11, Ikegami discloses wherein when a function key **(Inoue: Col. 5 lines 28-36 Function key 404d)** to which a plurality of applications are assigned is pushed, the image forming apparatus displays a screen including the names of the plurality of applications for a user to select one application from the plurality of applications. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is possible)**

Claim 12, Ikegami discloses wherein the image forming apparatus displays application status for each of the plurality of applications. **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 shows that copying is being done)**

Claim 13, Ikegami discloses wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application from a plurality of applications according to a number of times a user pushes a function key to which the plurality of applications are assigning within a time period. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is possible)**

Claim 14, Ikegami discloses wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application from a plurality of applications in which the one application corresponds to an extension key ID that is the same as a number of times a user pushes the function key to which the plurality of applications are assigning within a time period. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171)**

Claim 15, Ikegami discloses a method used for assigning an application to a function key in an image forming apparatus that can include a plurality of applications, **(Fig. 1 shows an image forming apparatus that includes scanning, printing and faxing)** the method comprising the steps of:

displaying a screen used for selecting an application on an operation display part of the image forming apparatus **(Col. 7, Lines 45-50, Fig. 6 172 shows clearly that different applications like copying, faxing, printing can be selected by pressing the appropriate key or button)**

wherein the screen shows applications **(Buttons 601,604,607, 610,634,613 shown in Fig. 6 clearly shows their corresponding applications)** and an assignment status of each application indicating whether a function key is already assigned **(Fig. 6 shows clearly that buttons 601, 604 etc shows that 601 has already been assigned the function Copy A and 604 is assigned Copy B and therefore the assignment status is that the keys are assigned these applications)**

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an assigning part (**Keys displayed in fig. 7-see Col. 8 lines 31-34**) assigning a selected application that is selected on the screen to a function key when the function key is pushed, (**Col. 8 lines 34-41- thus the function key 426 is set to the application mode of double-sided operation**) such that the selected application is executed when the function key is later pushed after assigning of the selected application has occurred. (**Col. 8 lines 41-45- thus after the key is set pressing that key displays the functions that is set or assigned to it**)

and a control part (**CPU 171**) configured to launch the application assigned to the function key when the function key is pushed, (**Col. 4 lines 45-47, thus when a button such as key 624 is pressed by a user CPU 171 controls the digital copier 100 to display the settings that is set to the pressed button such as key 624**)

wherein, if a plurality of applications are assigned to the function key, when the function key is pushed, the control part displays a selection screen on the operation panel for the user to select one for selecting an application from among the plurality of applications assigned to the function key and launches an application selected on the selection screen, (**Col. 8 lines 34-39 because key 624 is assigned a plurality of modes such as "Single-double mode" ,"a double-double mode" and "a double-Single mode" they are displayed on the screen as clearly shown in Fig. 8B when Key 624 is pressed –Please see NB**) and

NB_ Understand that the way a mode is set to a button or key is by it being displayed on the screen and the user touching it- Please see Col. 8 lines 18-23.

Ikegami does not clearly disclose a scenario wherein if a single application is assigned to the function key, the control part launches the single application without displaying the selection screen when the function key is pushed.

However, if Key 624 is assigned 3 different types of double sided mode and they are displayed when it is touched then Obviously when Key 624 was assigned just a single function or mode then it will display whatever mode or function is assigned.

Furthermore, It is obvious that a key displays the number of modes or functions that are assigned to it, therefore it will be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art to understand that if 3 different modes or examples of double-sided modes which is assigned to Key 624 is displayed when it is pressed then if one mode or function is assigned to any other key then that function will be displayed when it is pressed.

Claim 16, Ikegami discloses wherein the function key is a hardware key.

(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 show a control panel which is a hardware key)

Claim 17, Ikegami wherein the function key is a software key that is displayed on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 45-51, thus the software are embedded in the CPU 171 which controls or process the control panel)**

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Claim 18, Ikegami wherein the step of assigning is performed when the image forming apparatus is in a mode for assigning the selected application to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 25-65, thus the application key mode puts the apparatus into the mode for assigning the selected application) .**

Claim 19, Ikegami discloses wherein when assigning of the selected application is performed, the image forming apparatus displays a guidance screen **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 El. 617, Guidance key)** indicating an operation of the function key on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus is copy application is selected it shows on the screen that copies is being made)**

Claim 20, Ikegami wherein the guidance screen includes an image of an operation panel of the image forming apparatus **(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 45-55, thus the Operation or control panel helps in guiding the user through using the image forming apparatus)** and an image for guiding a user to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus the guidance key may be use to help the user in operating the apparatus)**

Claim 21, Ikegami discloses wherein, when assigning of the selected application is performed, the image forming apparatus displays a screen indicating the number of applications assigning to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 45-60, Fig. 6 thus**

fig. 6 shows clearly that copying application is pressed and therefore it shows vividly on the panel or LCD that it is the application being operated).

Claim 22, (Cancelled)

Claim 23, Ikegami discloses wherein, in the step of assigning, the image forming apparatus obtains a function key ID corresponding to the pushed function key; and stores an application ID of the selected application **(Ikegami: Memory storing the application address in Fig. 2 El. 174 and 175)** and the obtained function key ID in which the application ID is associated with the function key ID. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, Fig. 2 thus there is a linkage between the key and the software that supports the function key which operates through the Processor as a communication means)**

Claim 24, Ikegami discloses wherein, in addition to the function key ID, the image forming apparatus stores extension key IDs for identifying a plurality of applications assigning to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171)**

Claim 25, Ikegami discloses wherein, when a function key to which a plurality of applications are assigning is pushed, **(Ikegami: Col. 8 lines 26-31- thus Key 626 is for setting the application mode such as printer or fax and printer)** the image forming

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apparatus displays a screen including the names of the plurality of applications for a user to select one application from the plurality of applications. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is possible)**

Claim 26, Ikegami discloses wherein the image forming apparatus displays application status for each of the plurality of applications. **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 shows that copying is being done)**

Claim 27, Ikegami discloses wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application from a plurality of applications according to a number of times a user pushes a function key to which the plurality of applications are assigning within a time period. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is possible)**

Claim 28, Ikegami discloses wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application from a plurality of applications **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 shows a plurality of applications such as Copy A & B, FAX and Printer)** in which the one application corresponds to an extension key ID that is the same as a number of times a user pushes the function key to which the plurality of applications are assigning within a time

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period. (Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171)

Claim 29-42-Cancelled,

Claim 43, Ikegami discloses a computer readable medium storing a computer program for causing an image forming apparatus to assign an application to a function key, in which the image forming apparatus can include a plurality of applications, **(Fig. 1 shows an image forming apparatus that includes scanning, printing and faxing)** the computer program comprising:

displaying program code means for displaying a screen **(Fig. 6 shows clearly a display)** used for selecting an application on an operation display part of the image forming apparatus; **(Col. 7, Lines 45-50, Fig. 6 172 shows clearly that different applications like copying, faxing, printing can be selected by pressing the appropriate key or button)**

wherein the screen shows applications **(Buttons 601,604,607, 610,634,613 shown in Fig. 6 clearly shows their corresponding applications)** and an assignment status of each application indicating whether a function key is already assigned **(Fig. 6 shows clearly that buttons 601, 604 etc shows that 601 has already been assigned the function Copy A and 604 is assigned Copy B and therefore the assignment status is that the keys are assigned these applications)**

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and an assigning part (**Keys displayed in fig. 7-see Col. 8 lines 31-34**) assigning a selected application that is selected on the screen to a function key when the function key is pushed, (**Col. 8 lines 34-41- thus the function key 426 is set to the application mode of double-sided operation**) such that the selected application is executed when the function key is later pushed after assigning of the selected application has occurred. (**Col. 8 lines 41-45- thus after the key is set pressing that key displays the functions that is set or assigned to it**)

and a control part (**CPU 171**) configured to launch the application assigned to the function key when the function key is pushed, (**Col. 4 lines 45-47, thus when a button such as key 624 is pressed by a user CPU 171 controls the digital copier 100 to display the settings that is set to the pressed button such as key 624**)

wherein, if a plurality of applications are assigned to the function key, when the function key is pushed, the control part displays a selection screen on the operation panel for the user to select one for selecting an application from among the plurality of applications assigned to the function key and launches an application selected on the selection screen, (**Col. 8 lines 34-39 because key 624 is assigned a plurality of modes such as "Single-double mode" ,"a double-double mode" and "a double-Single mode" they are displayed on the screen as clearly shown in Fig. 8B when Key 624 is pressed –Please see NB**) and

NB_ Understand that the way a mode is set to a button or key is by it being displayed on the screen and the user touching it- Please see Col. 8 lines 18-23.

Ikegami does not clearly disclose a scenario wherein if a single application is assigned to the function key, the control part launches the single application without displaying the selection screen when the function key is pushed.

However, if Key 624 is assigned 3 different types of double sided mode and they are displayed when it is touched then Obviously when Key 624 was assigned just a single function or mode then it will display whatever mode or function is assigned.

Furthermore, It is obvious that a key displays the number of modes or functions that are assigned to it, therefore it will be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art to understand that if 3 different modes or examples of double-sided modes which is assigned to Key 624 is displayed when it is pressed then if one mode or function is assigned to any other key then that function will be displayed when it is pressed.

Claim 44, Ikegami discloses wherein the function key is a hardware key.

(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 show a control panel which is a hardware key)

Claim 45, Ikegami discloses wherein the function key is a software key that is displayed on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 45-51, thus the software are embedded in the CPU 171 which controls or process the control panel)**

Claim 46, Ikegami discloses wherein assignment by the assigning program code means is performed when the image forming apparatus is in a mode for assigning the selected application to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 25-65, thus the application key mode puts the apparatus into the mode for assigning the selected application).**

Claim 47, Ikegami discloses wherein the assigning program code means displays a guidance screen **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 El. 617, Guidance key)** indicating an operation of the function key on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus is copy application is selected it shows on the screen that copies is being made)**

Claim 48, Ikegami discloses wherein the guidance screen includes an image of an operation panel of the image forming apparatus **(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 45-55, thus the Operation or control panel helps in guiding the user through using the image forming apparatus)** and an image for guiding a user to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus the guidance key may be use to help the user in operating the apparatus)**

Claim 49, Ikegami discloses wherein the assigning program code displays a screen indicating the number of application assigned to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 45-60, Fig. 6 thus fig. 6 shows clearly that copying application is pressed**

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and therefore it shows vividly on the panel or LCD that it is the application being operated).

Claim 50, Ikegami discloses wherein the assigning program code displays a screen indicating that the function cannot be assigned to the selected application number of applications assigned to the function already reaches a limit number. **(Ikegami: Col. 9 Lines 44-61, Fig. 620, thus it clearly shows that copying is possible and therefore it can be done, if it is impossible it will tell otherwise)**

Claim 51, Ikegami discloses the assigning program code means including: program code means for obtaining a function key ID corresponding to the pushed function key; **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 33-45, thus when a copy button is pressed, CPU 171 communicates with 172)** and

and program code means for storing an application ID of the selected application **(Ikegami: Memory storing the application address in Fig. 2 El. 174 and 175)** and the obtained function key ID in which the application ID is associated with the function key ID. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, Fig. 2 thus there is a linkage between the key and the software that supports the function key which operates through the Processor as a communication means)**

Claim 52, Ikegami wherein, in addition to the function key ID, the assigning program code means stores extension key IDs for identifying a plurality of applications

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assigned to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171).**

Claim 53,-(Cancelled)

Claim 54, Ikegami discloses wherein the displaying program code means displays application status for each of the plurality of applications. **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 shows that copying is being done)**

Claim 55, Ikegami discloses the computer program further comprising program code means for selecting one application from a plurality of applications according to a number of times a user pushes a function key to which the plurality of applications are assigned within a time period. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is possible).**

Claim 56, Ikegami discloses the computer program further comprising program code means for selecting one application from a plurality of applications in which the one application corresponds to an extension key ID **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 33-45, thus when a copy button is pressed, CPU 171 communicates with 172)** that is the same as a number of times a user pushes the function key to which the plurality of applications are assigned within a time period. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171).**

Claim 57, Ikegami discloses wherein when the function key is pushed for the assigning of the selected application, **(Col. 9 lines 2-4- thus the set key 618 is used to set or assign the preferred function key)** - thus the image forming apparatus displays a screen indicating that the function key cannot be assigned to the selected application **(Col. 8 lines 44-47- thus the key on the screen is caused to show as shaded to indicate that the key cannot be assigned or operated)** if the number of applications assigned to the function key already reaches a limit number. **(Col. 8 lines 60-64- if the screen is shaded then it has reached its limit and therefore it is impossible to assign more applications)**

Response to applicant's remark

The arguments filed by the applicant on 09/08/2010 has been considered but was not persuasive.

Regarding claims 1,7,15 and 43 applicant argues that the cited reference fails to wherein, if a plurality of applications are assigned to the function key, when the function key is pushed, the control part displays a selection screen, on the operation panel, for selecting an application from among the plurality of applications assigned to the function key, and launches an application selected on the selection screen, and

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if a single application is assigned to the function key, the control part launches the single application without displaying the selection screen when the function key is pushed.

In reply, Examiner respectfully disagree because as explained in the Office wherein, if a plurality of applications are assigned to the function key, when the function key is pushed, the control part displays a selection screen on the operation panel for the user to select one for selecting an application from among the plurality of applications assigned to the function key and launches an application selected on the selection screen, **(Col. 8 lines 34-39 because key 624 is assigned a plurality of modes such as "Single-double mode" ,"a double-double mode" and "a double-Single mode" they are displayed on the screen as clearly shown in Fig. 8B when Key 624 is pressed –Please see NB)** and

NB_ Understand that the way a mode is set to a button or key is by it being displayed on the screen and the user touching it- Please see Col. 8 lines 18-23.

Ikegami does not clearly disclose a scenario wherein if a single application is assigned to the function key, the control part launches the single application without displaying the selection screen when the function key is pushed.

However, if Key 624 is assigned 3 different types of double sided mode and they are displayed when it is touched then Obviously when Key 624 was assigned just a single function or mode then it will display whatever mode or function is assigned.

Furthermore, It is obvious that a key displays the number of modes or functions that are assigned to it, therefore it will be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art to understand that if 3 different modes or examples of double-sided modes which is assigned to Key 624 is displayed when it is pressed then if one mode or function is assigned to any other key then that function will be displayed when it is pressed.

Conclusion

1. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AKWASI M. SARPONG whose telephone number is (571)270-3438. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm est.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Poon can be reached on 571-272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Akwasi M Sarpong/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

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